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the state will corrupt the government, or the government will by coercion remould the social institutions. Professor Miaskowski pushes the thought further than Lieber did, however, and works it out in a more modern way, by asking the further questions: whether the class interests and class differences that grow up independently of state action bear any ascertainable relation to political constitutions; whether private property on the one hand, or collective property on the other, intensifies class struggles; and what is the influence of a collective ownership of land upon culture. His discussion of these questions is interesting and his conclusions contain little to strengthen socialistic arguments. Only when class interests are in equilibrium is the political constitution secure; but socialism can no more abolish class distinctions or insure an equilibrium of interests than can private property and inheritance. As for culture, there is no warrant in history or observed fact for expecting a development of its higher forms in a community whose social organization is based on a common ownership of land.

The address on the distribution of property in land was delivered at the University of Vienna in October, 1889, and is a valuable historical review.

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.

Studies in Statistics: Social, Political and Medical. By GEORGE BLUNDELL LONGSTAFF. London, Edward Stanford, 1891. — 455 pp.

Dr. Longstaff's book is a very valuable addition to the literature of statistics. It is at once scientific and popular: scientific because, in the main at least, the data are trustworthy and the conclusions drawn therefrom correct; popular in that the author has selected topics of general interest for his investigations and has expressed himself in good plain English. Popularity is not pre-eminently a thing to be sought in a book of this class, but if it can be obtained with no greater detriment to the real value of the work than it has entailed in this case, it is a great advantage. Statistics have the reputation of being "dry," but they are necessary and will always constitute one of the chief sources of information. Any book, therefore, that will encourage the public to use them intelligently will do just so much toward preventing their abuse.

The work begins with a short but very pithy introduction. The author defends statistics, arguing that

it is no more reasonable to condemn statistics because many men cannot marshal figures correctly, than it would be to deny the utility of geometry, because many boys fail to master the first few propositions of Euclid. . . . The primary requisite [of a statistician] is a logical mind and a sound logical

training; the second is a good general knowledge of the subject to which the figures under consideration relate.

Both these requisites the author seems to have.

In Chapters II and III he gives an excellent explanation of death, marriage and birth rates, illustrating by diagrams for England and Wales. Following this, the growth of population in England is considered, then the question of migration, and next the growth of new nations—the United States, Canada, South America, South Africa and Australia.

Dr. Longstaff differs with President Walker on some very interesting points, notably on the negro question. According to the census of 1880 there were 15,162 colored to 100,000 white in the population of the United States, as against 14,528 in 1870—a gain of 634. In some of the states the gain was much heavier, 10,970 in South Carolina and over 1000 in each of five other states. General Walker says in his report:

It is believed by the census office, however, that these apparent gains are due, in a great measure, to the imperfections of the census of 1870. Under the conditions which prevailed at that time it is probable that a much larger proportion of negroes were omitted than of whites.

The large proportionate increase in certain states may possibly be accounted for by the immigration of blacks and the emigration of whites, and this theory is supported by the large decrease in Texas (12,029) and Florida (6613). The aggregate figures for the whole Union, however, require further investigation. If, as Dr. Longstaff thinks, they are due to natural increase, we are in a sorry plight indeed; for practically no blacks have come into the country, while there have been immense numbers of white immigrants. Supposing the immigration to cease and the negro increase to continue, we should soon be overwhelmed. In support of Dr. Longstaff's view, it is true that the negroes all belong to the lower classes and it is well known that these classes increase more rapidly than the upper. On the other hand, as has been pointed out by Professor Mayo-Smith, not only the birth rate but also the death rate is very high among the colored people. A very large proportion of the negroes born in this country die in childhood, so that we can judge of the danger only after a careful study of the age classes of this population. It is very interesting to see ourselves with English eyes, and it would have been gratifying if Dr. Longstaff had gone into the question a little more fully.

After several chapters on special subjects, including a very intelligent discussion of the growth of city population, the latter half of the volume is devoted to medical statistics. Here the author appears to be even better equipped than in the other subjects, and some very valuable results are reached.

FRANK R. HATHAWAY.